

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Secretary-General reports to Security Council that Angolan Government and UNITA have made progress in Lusaka peace talks, but not enough to establish cease-fire or allow for expansion of UNAVEM II's role.
- + Secretary-General meets with delegation from United Somali Party, from Sol and Sanag regions of Somalia; they call for continued international support, and express appreciation for United Nations role.
- + Japan to contribute \$10 million for UNOSOM II's training programme for Somali police and then for general operation of its police project.
- + In letter to Security Council, Secretary-General says between 3,000 and 5,000 Croatian soldiers are currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reflecting recent increase in support for Bosnian Croat forces by Croatian Army.
- + Federal Republic of Yugoslavia tells Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women that it has no part in conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and protests imposition of sanctions.

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The Government of Angola and the opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had shown, in their ongoing talks in Lusaka, the will to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 29 January, on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) (S/1994/100), he said that in view of the progress made, the Council should maintain its present stance, with sanctions against UNITA threatened but not yet imposed. Should the circumstances change, he would recommend additional measures or a review of those in effect.

However, Mr. Boutros-Ghali continued, the peace talks had not yet reached the point where an effective cease-fire could be established as a basis for expanding the UN's current operation in Angola. But he was continuing with the necessary preparations and contingency planning so that the Organization

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could make an appropriate contribution as soon as a comprehensive settlement was achieved.

The Secretary-General urged the Government and UNITA to respect the commitments they had already entered into, to exercise maximum restraint and to put an immediate end to all military operations. He also appealed to them to provide the necessary security for the efficient distribution of humanitarian aid to the people of Angola.

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Japan has announced that it will be contributing \$10 million for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The announcement was made today during the inaugural meeting in Nairobi of the Somali Aid Coordination Body (SACB). The money is to be used first to train Somali police, and then utilized for the general operation of the police project in Somalia.

According to a United Nations spokesman, SACB's Standing Committee today considered issues associated with a regional strategy, including donor coordination and work with Somali institutions. The European Union's envoy to Somalia was elected Chairman of the Group.

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Yesterday evening Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali received a delegation from the United Somali Party, a signatory of the Addis Ababa Agreement of 1993 from the Sol and Sanag regions of Somalia (north-east) and a member of the group of twelve, a coalition of factions cooperating with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). According to a United Nations spokesman, the meeting took place at the delegation's request.

Ahmed Mohamed Adan, head of the delegation, and his colleagues emphasized the strong commitment of their party to the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia. They also stressed the importance of the international community staying the course in Somalia and firmly supported the United Nations presence and role in that country.

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In a letter to the Security Council, described today by a United Nations spokesman, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali quoted reports from Zagreb that between 3,000 and 5,000 personnel from the regular Croatian Army are currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He wrote that while the Croatian Army had directly supported the Bosnian Croat forces for some time with manpower, equipment and weapons, there appeared to have been an increase in the number of Croatian soldiers present in the country.

The Foreign Minister of Croatia, Mate Granic, wrote recently to the Security Council that there were no more than 2,000 Croatian citizens fighting

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as volunteers in Bosnia. All of those, he said, had direct family ties to people in Bosnia and some were originally from there. He denied that there was any Croatian Army deployment there.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) today told the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that it was not a party to any conflict and had no territorial claim to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Federal Republic's report was presented to the Committee, which monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in response to an exceptional Committee request for information on the situation of women in the former Yugoslavia.

The representative of the Federal Republic criticized the imposition of Security Council sanctions on her country, saying they had caused great suffering for vulnerable groups such as women and children. She also told the Committee that her Government condemned the abuse and rape of women and children in the strongest terms and had said that those responsible, whoever they were, should be punished. She said not a single soldier of the army of Yugoslavia remained in Bosnia after 19 May 1992 and since that time, there had only been ethnic Serbian soldiers from Bosnia in that territory.

The expert from Spain categorically rejected the representative of Yugoslavia's contention that her Government had nothing to do with events taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Responding in general to the report, the Committee experts expressed sympathy with the plight of all women in the former Yugoslavia who had suffered abuse, and regretted the impact on women and children of the Security Council sanctions. Several experts called on the women there to band together to demand an end to the violence, and to educate the men so that they would not use rape and violence against women as weapons of war.

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